

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3409

S E C R E T BONN 19524

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SALT, NATO, PARM, GE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO GERMAN PROPOSAL
ON SALT AND GREY-AREA CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 281255

1. IN THE AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE IN MUNICH, THE DCM CALLED ON POLITICAL DIRECTOR BLECH (WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER RUTH) MORNING OF NOVEMBER 24 PURSUANT TO REFTEL AND CONVEYED OUR VIEWS REGARDING TIMING, CONCEPT OF THE CONSULTATIONS, AND SCOPE OF THE AGENDA.

2. BLECH SAID HE WOULD INFORM GENSCHER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ADDING THAT GENSCHER WAS UNDER DOCTOR'S ORDERS WITH A BOUT OF FLU AND MIGHT BE OUT OF THE OFFICE THROUGH MOST OF NEXT WEEK. (IN THIS CONNECTION, BLECH SAID THE DAYAN VISIT TO BONN EARLY NEXT WEEK WOULD GO FORWARD, GENSCHER'S ILLNESS NOTWITHSTANDING, BUT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP TO MOROCCO SCHEDULED FOR LATER IN THE WEEK HAD BEEN CANCELED. BLECH WENT ON TO SAY THAT VAN WELL WAS DUE BACK FROM WARSAW TODAY, A DAY AHEAD OF HIS PLANNED RETURN WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT.)

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3. BLECH COMMENTED ON A STRICTLY PERSONAL BASIS ON OUR NEW PROPOSALS. THE GIST OF WHAT HE SAID WAS A RENEWED REQUEST FOR QUADRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS BEFORE THE DECEMBER 7 MINISTERIAL. THE KEY REASON BLECH GAVE WAS THE NEED TO SUBMIT FOR MINISTERS' CONSIDERATION AS PRECISE VIEWS AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER

TO PRODUCE A CAREFULLY DEFINED MANDATE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. BLECH SAID THE GERMAN SIDE WAS FULLY AWARE THAT IN THE SHORT TIME FRAME AVAILABLE IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE EXHAUSTIVE DISCUSSION. NEVERTHELESS, HE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT QUADRIPARTITE CONSULTATIONS BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL WERE MUCH PREFERABLE TO BILATERAL. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE ASKED IF WE ARE CONSIDERING BILATERALS WITH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH ALSO, OR HAVE WE ONLY U.S./GERMAN IN MIND. HE WENT ON TO ASK IF WE HAVE HAD ANY CONTACTS WITH THE FRENCH ON THE SUBJECT. BLECH CONTINUED THAT, BECAUSE OF TIME PRESSURES, IT WOULD BE TECHNICALLY DIFFICULT TO CARRY OUT THE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, EVEN IF WE HAD A U.S./FRG BILATERAL. IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONDUCT A SERIES OF COMPLICATED EXCHANGES BETWEEN CAPITALS ON VERY SHORT DEADLINES. FOR REASONS OF ECONOMY, THEREFORE, HE THOUGHT QUADRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS WERE STILL INDICATED.

4. BLECH SAID VON STADEN HAD REPORTED WE WERE CONSIDERING MAKING PAUL WARNKE AVAILABLE FOR BILATERAL TALKS. BLECH NOTED THAT WARNKE WOULD BE IN BRUSSELS DECEMBER 2 AND ASKED IF IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CONVENE A QUADRIPARTITE MEETING IN CONNECTION WITH WARNKE'S TRIP. THIS COULD TAKE PLACE IN BRUSSELS, BUT IT MIGHT BE MORE DISCREETLY HELD IN BONN.

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5. BLECH ASKED, IN VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER, IF SECRETARY VANCE WOULD BE RESPONDING TO FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S LETTER DELIVERED BY VON STADEN NOVEMBER 23. DCM SAID HE WAS UNINFORMED ON THIS POINT. FINALLY, BLECH STRESSED AGAIN THAT HIS COMMENTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED COMPLETELY PERSONAL AND SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY GENSCHER. STOESEL

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